Accessing PLATO
Microlink™ Services

P|L|A|T|O®
Computer-Based Education

PLATO® MICROLINK™ SERVICES AGREEMENT

The Order Form you signed and submitted to us, this Agreement, and any Operating Rules published over the Service, from time to time, constitute the entire Agreement for the PLATO Microlink Services (the Service) and supercede all prior statements, communications, and documents.

1. SERVICE: The Service consists of the use of instructional material, data, software, and data bases as made available from time to time by Control Data (we, our) and a license to use the software necessary to access the Service.

2. TERM: The term of this Agreement is one year automatically renewable upon paying an annual fee.

3. CHARGES: You agree to pay for actual usage of the Services under your access code and any taxes levied on the Service. The charges will be billed to the charge card number you provided.

4. CHANGES: Upon notice published over the Service, we may modify these Terms, Operating Rules, or the Service. The changes may include price changes, calculation of usage, or discontinuance of parts of the Service.

5. LICENSE: We grant you a personal, nonexclusive license to use the PLATO Microlink Disk. The PLATO Microlink Disk and any related documentation are copyrighted.

   a. You may:
      1) Make a reasonable number of copies of the disk for backup purposes.
      2) Transfer the disk from one computer to another.

   b. You may not:
      1) Transfer the disk electronically from one computer to another over a network.
      2) Sublicense, modify in any way, or prepare derivative works of the software disk and related documentation.

6. WARRANTY; WARRANTY DISCLAIMER: The Service, including the PLATO Microlink Disk, is provided on an "as is, as available" basis. The flexible disk on which the PLATO Microlink Disk is recorded is warranted to be free from defects in materials and workmanship for a period of 30 days from the date you acquired it. If a defect occurs during the warranty period, return it to us, and we will replace the disk.

OTHER THAN THE WARRANTIES PROVIDED IN THIS AGREEMENT, NEITHER CONTROL DATA NOR ITS SUPPLIERS MAKE ANY WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, THOSE OF MERCHANTABILITY, ACCURACY, CONTENT, AND FITNESS, FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, WITH RESPECT TO THE SERVICE. In no event shall Control Data's liability of any kind include any special, incidental, or consequential damages even if we shall have knowledge of the possibility of such potential loss or damage.

7. YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES:

   a. You are responsible for keeping your access codes protected.

   b. You will provide all telephone service and other equipment necessary to access the Service.

   c. You are responsible for implementing sufficient procedures to satisfy your requirements for accuracy of data input and output and for maintaining a means external to the Service for reconstruction of any lost data.

   d. Except for your own material and data, you agree not to (i) copy or permit others to copy our material, software, or data, or parts of them, or (ii) transfer any material, software, or data by any other means for any purpose.

8. REMEDY:

   a. In the event of any defective performance, we will use reasonable efforts to restore the Service to good operating condition. Inability to obtain access is not a failure to perform.

   b. If your machine-readable files are lost, destroyed, or impaired by us, we will attempt to recover a prior version of such files from backup media, if any, we maintained. If for any reason we are unable to restore your files from backup media, we will perform such restoration as can reasonably be performed using machine-readable source data you furnish.

9. TERMINATION: You may terminate the Service at any time by no longer using it. You agree to notify us in writing so we can cancel any future annual fees. We can terminate the agreement if you fail to pay or fail to comply with the terms of this Agreement. We can terminate the Services with one month's notice published on the Service. Upon termination, you agree to destroy the PLATO Microlink Disk and any copies of it.

10. GENERAL: This Agreement will be governed by the laws of the State of Minnesota. Any claims or causes of action related to the Service must be instituted within one year after the claim of action has arisen or be barred.

Control Data Corporation
8100 34th Avenue South
P.O. Box 0
Minneapolis, MN 55440
Attention: PLATO Microlink Customer Service

Accessing PLATO Microlink Services

Contents

Introduction

The PLATO® Microlink™ service for personal computers provides the most advanced features currently available for microcomputer networking. This manual provides instructions for gaining access to the service, explains how to translate PLATO keypress instructions to the proper keys on the Personal Computer keyboard, and shows you where to go for help.

Included in your PLATO Microlink package are four additional books:
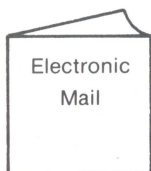
Electronic
Mail

Electronic Mail provides an introduction to and easy instructions for using PLATO communications features.

Road
Map

The **Microlink Road Map** serves as your guide to the numerous features of the Microlink service, showing you what is available and where to go for more information.
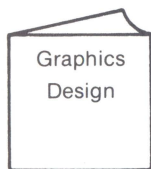
Graphics
Design
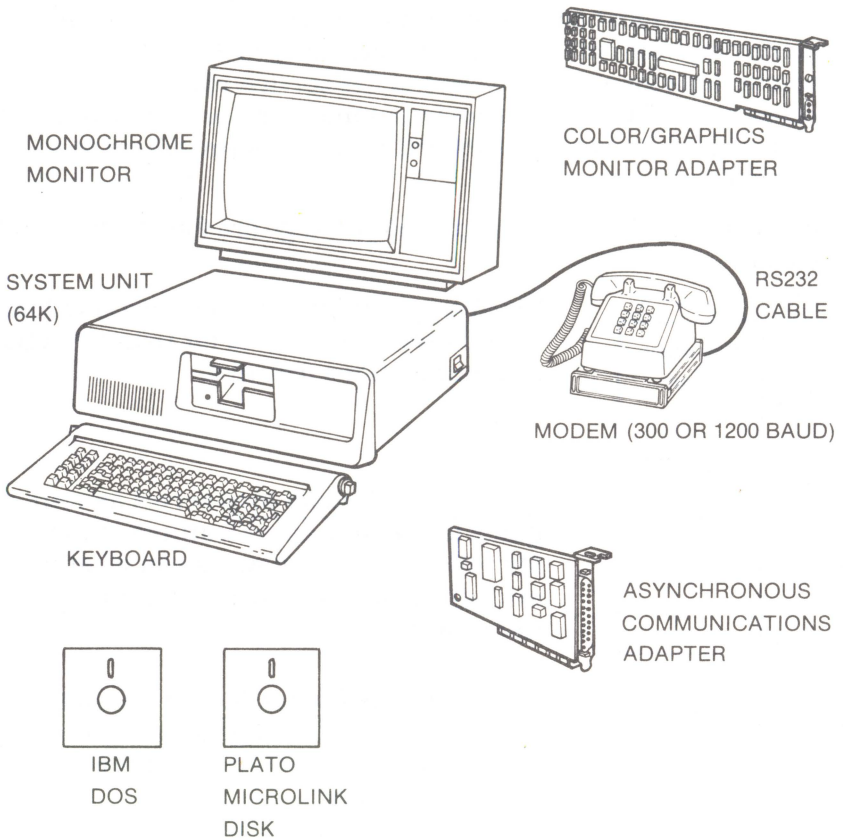
The GUIDE: **Graphics Design** booklet introduces the PLATO graphics editor and shows you where to find more details on its use.
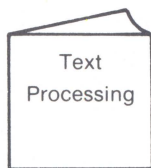
Text
Processing

The **Text Processing** booklet briefly describes how to get started with the PLATO editor that functions much like a word processor.

Equipment Needed

MONOCHROME
MONITOR

COLOR/GRAPHICS
MONITOR ADAPTER

SYSTEM UNIT
(64K)

RS232
CABLE

MODEM (300 OR 1200 BAUD)

KEYBOARD

ASYNCHRONOUS
COMMUNICATIONS
ADAPTER

IBM
DOS

PLATO
MICROLINK
DISK

Be sure to use a monochrome monitor that operates with the color/graphics monitor adapter. (Note: Some monitors, including the IBM model 5151001, may require a special adapter.)

All devices pictured in this manual are for illustration only, and their use here does not constitute an endorsement by Control Data Corporation. Selection, interconnection, and use of these devices are the sole responsibility of the customer.

Initial Preparation

Access Instructions

Your Microlink package includes a list of telephone numbers
and a set of blank adhesive labels. You can use them to prepare
the abbreviated access instructions on the back of your
package box as follows:

1. Choose the telephone number of the location nearest you,
    write it on one of the labels, and apply it to the appropriate
    shaded area on the instruction sheet.
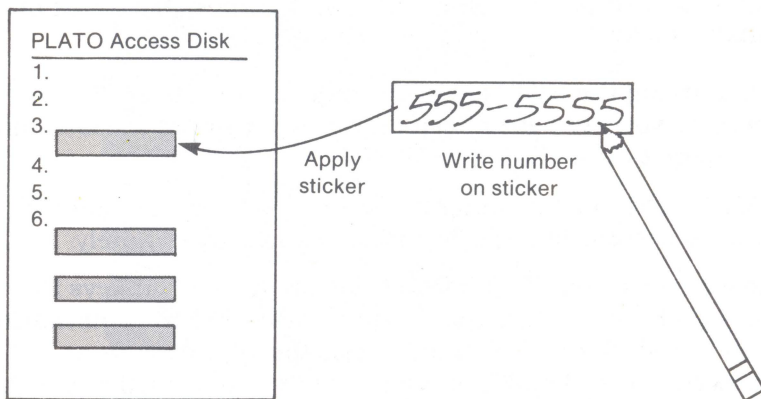
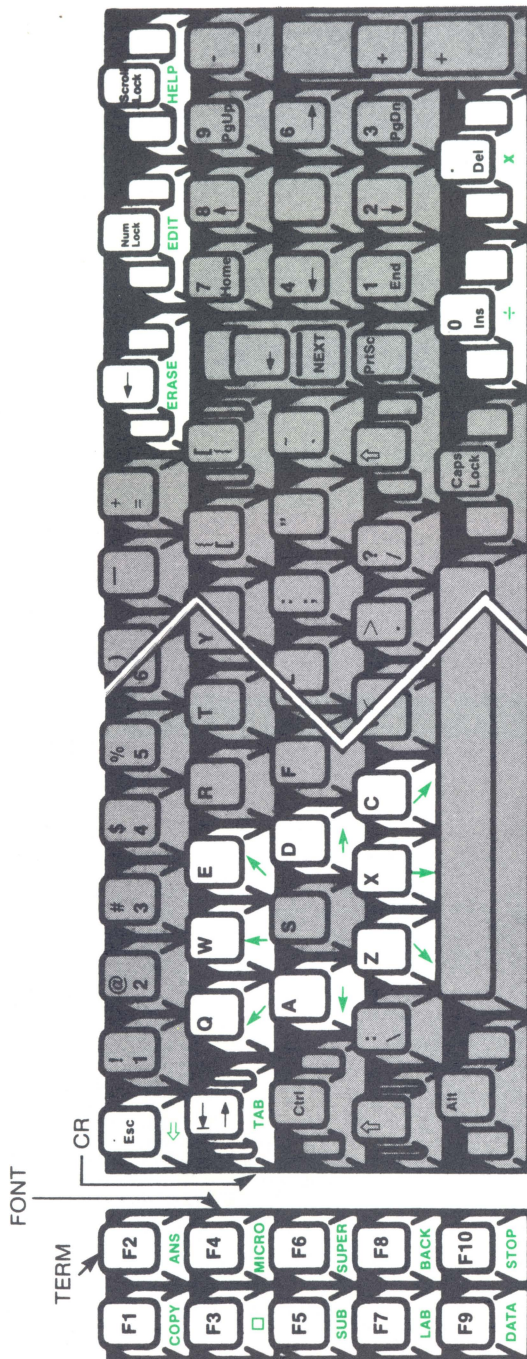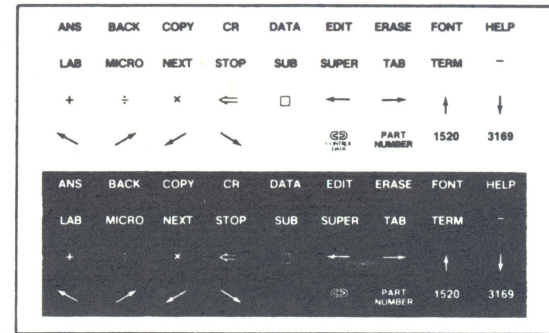2. Enter your sign-on name, group name, and password in a
    similar manner.

This now serves as a permanent, easily accessible summary of
the PLATO sign-on procedure.

Keyboard Labels

The key names on the IBM Personal Computer keyboard are
somewhat different than those on Control Data terminals for
which PLATO services were designed. A set of labels that you
can attach to your keyboard is included in this package.

Apply the labels as shown on the keyboard.

ANS	BACK	COPY	CR	DATA	EDIT	ERASE	FONT	HELP
LAB	MICRO	NEXT	STOP	SUB	SUPER	TAB	TERM	–
+	÷	×	←	□	←	→	↑	↓
↙	↗	↘	↘			PART NUMBER	1520	3169

ANS	BACK	COPY	CR	DATA	EDIT	ERASE	FONT	HELP
LAB	MICRO	NEXT	STOP	SUB	SUPER	TAB	TERM	–
+		×	←		←	→	↑	↓
↙	↗	↘	↘			PART NUMBER	1520	3169

Apply the labels as shown on the fold-out page. On keys with two labels, attach the label of the shifted key above that of the unshifted key.

When using the IBM Personal Computer to deliver PLATO services, you need to pay particular attention to the locations and names of the function keys.

NEXT is the most commonly used PLATO key, and you will want to become familiar with its location immediately.

Most of the other PLATO functions are located on keys F1 through F10. The function keys are also used in combination with the Shift key, which functions the same way as a typewriter shift key. When instructed to press SHIFT-STOP, for example, you must hold down the 🔼 and press F10.

Connecting to the PLATO Microlink Service

Boot the IBM DOS

Place a DOS system disk in drive A and turn on your computer. After about 30 seconds, your terminal BEEPS, the computer reads the disk and transfers the information, and you are presented with the usual DOS message. Type the date and time, and press Enter.

Load the Microlink Disk

Remove the DOS disk and insert the PLATO Microlink Disk (included in this package) in drive A. At the DOS prompt, A>, type in—

plato

and press Enter. The computer then loads the PLATO interface software.

> NOTE: You may combine the PLATO Microlink program with your DOS as indicated in your DOS manual. This allows you to load the programs without changing disks.

Adjust Your Monitor

When the title display appears, press Enter for the monitor adjustment display and follow the instructions for adjusting the monitor. This step is necessary on some monitors the first time you use the Microlink Disk.

Select the Baud Rate

Type a or b for the correct baud rate:

a. 300 baud
b. 1200 baud

> *NOTE: The PLATO service does not determine whether you have chosen the correct baud rate. If you choose the wrong rate, your computer will not communicate with a PLATO system, and you must reload the PLATO Microlink Disk and start again.*

Dial the Modem

Your modem must be set to communicate with an asynchronous, full-duplex communications network with RS232 connections. Dialing procedures vary with each modem, and you should consult the manufacturer's guide for the precise operation. In general, you can follow these steps.

Self-dialing modems (intelligent modems such as the Hayes* Smartmodem)

1. Ensure proper connection and switch settings of the modem.
2. Enter the dialing code and the telephone number, and press Enter. (On the Hayes Smartmodem, for example, type "AT D" and the telephone number before pressing Enter.)

Modems you dial from your telephone (nonintelligent modems such as United Data Services 300- and 1200-baud modems)

1. Ensure proper connection of the modem.
2. With the modem set to originate and TALK, dial the number of the location nearest you.

*Hayes is a trademark of Hayes Microcomputer Products, Inc.

3. When the telephone emits a high-pitched tone, flip the TALK/DATA switch to DATA.

4. Hang up the telephone.

Sign on to PLATO Microlink Service

```
// i ◄─────────────────┐
                       │
```
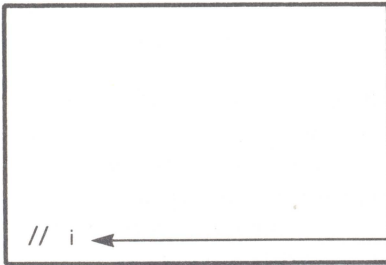
Once your modem is connected, there is a short pause before your screen shows two slashes (//) on the left-hand side of the screen. When the slashes appear, type i and press Enter to begin.

└ You type i.

```
// i
NET xxxx
PLEASE SIGN ON— pca
        ▲
        │
```
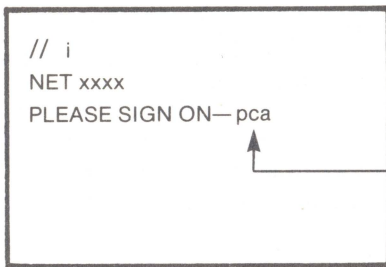
After you press Enter, your screen shows a NET number and the message "PLEASE SIGN ON—". Type the system name, pca, and press Enter.

└ You type pca.

You need three pieces of information to sign on to the PLATO Microlink service: your PLATO name, your group name, and a password. (These are provided on your registration confirmation.)

```
Welcome to  . . . .
  ◊◊
```

When the welcoming display (sometimes called the clock page) appears, type the PLATO name assigned to you and press Enter.

```
┌─────────────────────────────┐
│   Type the name of your      │
│     PLATO group.             │
│                              │
│   ⟩                          │
│                              │
│                              │
└─────────────────────────────┘
```

At the next display, type the name of your group and press SHIFT-STOP (SHIFT-F10 on the Personal Computer).

```
┌─────────────────────────────┐
│  ⟨  Type your password.      │
│                              │
│   ⟩                          │
│                              │
│                              │
└─────────────────────────────┘
```

Next, type your PLATO password and press Enter. As you type, a random number of Xs appears for each character to help you keep your password confidential. You may change your password anytime you wish by following the instructions on this display.

When your password is accepted, an index of activities appears. You are now part of the PLATO Microlink service. Feel free to experiment and explore, and consult the other booklets in this series for further information.

Signing Off the PLATO Microlink Service

You have two ways to end your sessions on the Microlink service:

- Press the letter l on the Microlink menu.
- At any time, repeatedly press SHIFT-STOP (Shift-F10).

NOTE: Any time your telephone connection is interrupted, the PLATO Microlink service signs you off, and charges stop.

NOTE: Be sure to sign off whenever you are not using the PLATO Microlink service to avoid unnecessary charges.

Billing Procedure

Your monthly charges are calculated according to two factors: time on the Microlink service and file space used.

Time

The PLATO Microlink service records the time you use, in one-minute increments, and displays this amount on the PLATO menu for your information and records.

File Space

You are not charged for file space unless you request it for some of the PLATO features. The options requiring file space are storage of—

- Text processing documents
- Graphics design documents
- TUTOR programs
- Other files created from the File Management option

File space charges are based on the number of file parts used. On PLATO systems, a one-part file is equal to 19,200 six-bit characters, or approximately 19,200 bytes of storage.

Telephone Charges

Though your connection to the PLATO service is part of a complex, nationwide network, you are responsible only for charges from your telephone to the number you select from the enclosed list. In most cases, this is a local call.

Rates

As of August, 1983, the rates for PLATO Microlink services for personal computers are—

$ 5.00 per hour (accumulated by the minute)
$ .17 per file part per day
$10.00 annual registration fee

These rates are subject to change, so you should consult the on-line references for the most current information.

Billing Questions

For prompt reply to any questions regarding your bill, write or call the PLATO Microlink Customer Service at the location or number that appears on the inside back cover of this manual.

Hours of Operation

As of August, 1983, the PLATO Microlink service is available as follows:

Time Zone	Weekdays	Weekends and Holidays
Eastern	6 p.m.-4 a.m.	6 a.m.-4 a.m.
Central	6 p.m.-3 a.m.	5 a.m.-3 a.m.
Mountain	6 p.m.-2 a.m.	4 a.m.-2 a.m.
Pacific	6 p.m.-1 a.m.	3 a.m.-1 a.m.

Hours of operation are subject to change. Please consult the on-line user-information for current times.
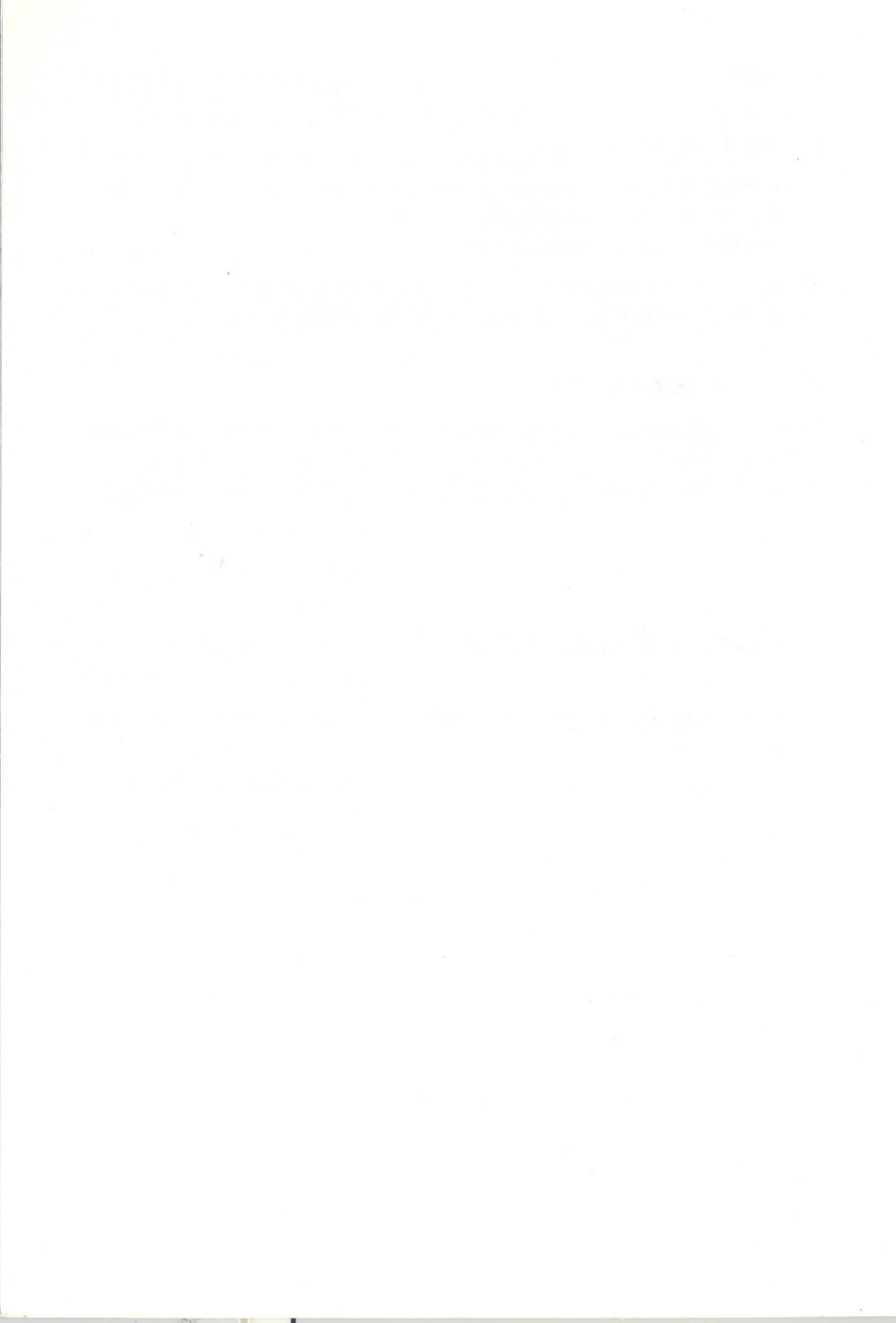
SOURCES OF HELP

Any time you have a question about the PLATO Microlink service, you have several sources of help.

Notes: Leave a note in the general notes file "Discussion of This PLATO Service" (mcdn) to exchange information with other users.

You may also leave a note in the notes file "Microlink HELP Notes" (pmlhelp) to obtain help from Microlink Customer Service.

See Electronic Mail for procedure.

Write: Control Data Corporation
PLATO Microlink Customer Service
P.O. Box 0
Minneapolis, MN 55440

Call: PLATO Hotline
(612) 375-8111 (in Minnesota and Hawaii)
(800) 328-7104 (in all other states)

Hotline hours:
7 a.m. to 7 p.m. (CST) Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (CST) Saturday

The Microlink network: One of the prime advantages of the PLATO Microlink service is the network of new and experienced users. You are encouraged to make use of this resource. Feel free to use Personal Notes, Group Notes, and other communication utilities to ask questions, share your knowledge and discoveries, and particularly to advertise filenames of programs you have written. PLATO network users are known to be friendly and helpful; be sure to take full advantage of their resources. See Electronic Mail for further information on this easy-to-use service.